



# Department of Assessment

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 8, 2003

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Re: Data Collection for the 2004 Assessment Roll

As part of the Continual Equity Maintenance Program underway in Tompkins County since 1999, the Department of Assessment has started its data collection phase for the 2004 Assessment Roll Year.

In order to verify that all assessments are as fair and equitable as possible, the Department of Assessment needs to have accurate data on all of the parcels of real estate within Tompkins County, whether that parcel may or may not have transferred recently. To satisfy this, the Department of Assessment will be inspecting all properties either from the public right of way or by an interior inspection during the next 4 months.

Also during this time, the Department of Assessment will be systematically analyzing all transfers of real property in order to determine whether a market trend exists – either upwards or downwards. If a trend occurs, the Department of Assessment will adjust those properties that are affected by this trend by comparing the subject property to similar properties that have sold recently within the same market area.

Beginning after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, the Department of Assessment will make these changes in assessment and mail out Preliminary Change of Assessment Notices to all affected property owners so that they may have a chance to sit down with the appraisal staff to present information regarding their property's market value.

More information on annual reassessment and other topics regarding assessment is available on the web at [www.tompkins-co.org/assessment](http://www.tompkins-co.org/assessment) or the NY State Office of Real Property Services web site at <http://www.orps.state.ny.us>

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